

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 12 with the following:

Figure 1 shows the compact installation of the invention, in which the casting line GL and pass line WL are arranged parallel to each other and are oppositely directed. The casting line and the pass line are connected by a reheating furnace AO, which acts as a ferry to feed the slabs from the casting line to the pass line and at the same time raises the temperature of the slabs to the required initial pass temperature for the rolling mill WL. At least three slabs and a maximum of twelve slabs can be held in the reheating furnace AO. The distance between the casting line with the casting machine GM and the pass line with the rolling mill WW ~~WM~~ designed in such a way that a sufficient residence and buffering time in the furnace is guaranteed.